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CALVIN SELDEN, OF LYME, AND  
HIS CHILDREN.

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AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT A MEETING OF THE

(SELDEN FAMILY)

AT

FENWICK GROVE, SAYBROOK, CONN.,

AUGUST 22, 1877,

By DANIEL C. EATON,

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“Honor thy Father and thy Mother.”





# ADDRESS.

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A few persons present at this gathering of the Selden family, who have long been residents of Lyme or the neighboring towns, and whose memory goes back of the year 1820, my venerable friend Mr. Matthew Griswold, for instance, may remember Calvin Selden, a life-long resident of Lyme.

He was of the fourth generation in descent from the emigrant ancestor of all of us, Thomas Selden, of Hartford; the line of descent being, Thomas Selden, Joseph Selden, who came to Hadlyme in 1696, Samuel Selden, of Lyme, and Ezra Selden, of Lyme, the father of Calvin.

Calvin Selden was, I am told, a man of thought and of extensive reading, for the time in which he lived, and, withal, a man of singularly pleasant and amiable disposition. He was commonly known as *Squire* Selden. He was born March 14, 1763, and was married Sept. 20, 1790, to Phebe, daughter of Elijah and Kate Ely. Their home was in North Lyme, and, like their children after them, they were fond of entertaining company. Scarcely any person of education or distinction passed through Lyme without stopping at their house. He died October 28, 1820, and his wife, whom I knew and loved as the kindest of grandmothers, survived him many years, dying at the home of her youngest daughter, October 15, 1853. Their children were six in number:

ROXANA,	.	.	.	born May 19, 1791,
EZRA,	.	.	.	born Aug. 17, 1793,
ELIZABETH,	.	.	.	born April 18, 1796,
SAMUEL LEE,	.	.	.	born Oct. 12, 1800,
ALMIRA,	.	.	.	born Sept. 20, 1803,
HENRY ROGERS,	.	.	.	born Oct. 14, 1805.



Roxana married, first, Morrison Jack, a West Indian planter, for whom I believe the Chief Justice was named. They resided in the West Indies, and had two daughters: Eliza, (Mrs. Partridge, whose wedding is one of the earliest things I remember,) and Margaret, (Mrs. Hetzel, who is still living.) Some years after the death of Mr. Jack, my aunt married Judge Fraser of Wisconsin, but he died not long afterwards, and she survived him many years, and died Oct. 21, 1876, in Western New York, leaving one daughter, four grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

She was a lady of great force of character, brilliant in conversation, and of exemplary piety; a little quick perhaps,—but that is a characteristic of all the Seldens,—and moreover enthusiastically devoted to the history and genealogy of the Selden family.

Ezra was a young man of generous and playful disposition. He was shot during the second war with England, by a sentry on guard at an armed post not far from here, through some mistake or carelessness, or heedless playfulness of his own, and died Aug. 16, 1814.

Of Elizabeth, the third of Calvin Selden's children, I shall have more to say presently.

Samuel Lee Selden removed to Rochester in 1821, and entered as a student of the law the office of Judge Gardiner, whose partner he afterwards became. He soon was chosen a Justice of the Peace, and afterwards Judge of Common Pleas in Monroe Co. In 1847 he became a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and in 1856 he was elected a Judge of the highest court of that State, the Court of Appeals. He held this office for several years, and then resigned it, the vacancy being filled by the appointment of his brother Henry R. Selden.

His wife and his two sons were taken from him by the hand of death, during the busiest years of his life as Judge, and from the great sorrow and affliction of these successive bereavements he never fully recovered. He lived quietly in his old home at Rochester, and died suddenly Sept. 20, 1876. It was said of him that "He was distin-



guished for the power of analysis with which he approached all the confused, complicated and involved questions of fact, statute law and judicial decisions, which arose in his career as a lawyer and a magistrate. With this was united remarkable acuteness in discriminating all the *essential* elements of a case from those which were accidental, and generalizing the results, which were coherent, into principles so luminous in substance and statement, that they shone in their own light, and were at once accepted as of universal application. Accustomed to rest his own decisions on general principles, he readily wrought these into a system which took on naturally a scientific form and swept into its field of vision the whole range of human relations. His special investigations as a judge would, without essential modification, form constituent parts of a scientific treatise on general jurisprudence."

But while I honor the memory of my deceased relative, and venerate his legal ability and judicial reputation, it is rather as the kind, thoughtful, generous friend that I love to think of him. His sympathy for any one in trouble was ever the readiest, and his generosity was limited, not measured, only by his power to help.

Almira, or Myra, as she was known in early youth, was the youngest of the three sisters. She was married at the age of 22 to Mr. Nathaniel Almorán Bacon, a merchant of New Haven. Like her brother she was much given to hospitality, and I doubt if there are any of Grandmother Selden's descendants, save the youngest children, who do not remember the kind and pleasant hospitality of dear, good little Aunt Almira. Like both her sisters she was a person of the most devoted piety, and she is held in affectionate memory not only by her sole surviving daughter, and her nephews and nieces, but also by many persons who were her neighbors and friends. She died at her brother Samuel's house in Rochester, of a lingering illness, September 29, 1867.

Of her daughters, Mary and Alice died in childhood; Ellen and Rebecca were young ladies of the most amiable





and the kindest qualities, each in her own way doing good with all her powers, and both fading away in early womanhood, and closing their eyes to the hopes of this life in the certain faith of awaking to unfading life and an eternity of blessedness.

The survivor, Susan, is the wife of Rev. Leonard W. Bacon; she is here to-day, with her husband and one or two of her boys [the girls she did not bring]. I know she would not like me to praise her to her face, and as I can not speak of her except to say something good of her, I must refrain altogether. We were playmates as long ago as I care to remember, in her father's house and in my father's house, and now that she and her husband have returned to her native city, I hope her children and mine may find almost as much pleasure in each other's society as did the merry circle of cousins of twenty and thirty years ago.

When Grandmother Selden was still living—it must have been twenty-five years ago—at Aunt Bacon's house. I heard her say, and the venerable lady's eyes brightened as she said it: "I think I shall see my baby to-night." In a few hours her baby arrived—Hon. Henry R. Selden, at that time or not long afterwards Lieut. Governor of the State of New York, before that Reporter of the Court of Appeals, since then Judge of the same court, now one of the busiest, wisest, ablest, and most honored lawyers of the nation, and always one of the truest, kindest, and most earnest of men. I do not know what special quality of my uncle Henry to speak of to this company of his kindred. He is a *Selden*, honest, persevering, ready, faithful.

One of us once asked him, "Uncle Henry, when was the battle of Hastings?" He replied instantly: "The battle of Hastings was fought on the fourteenth day of October, 1066, from early in the morning until sunset."

Again: "Uncle Henry, who was Sam Adams?" "Go and read the history of the Revolution."

Henry R. Selden has buried some five or six children, and has living three sons and three daughters, besides six



or eight grandchildren.—Bacons, Otises, Macomers, but I believe as yet but one Selden grandchild, and that a little grand-daughter. Like Abou ben Adhem, may his tribe increase! He hoped to be present to-day, but could not well come; and then he knew you would compel him to speak, and this I may perhaps say is the one thing he cannot do, for he has long suffered from an affection of the throat.

I now come to the third of my grandfather's children, Elizabeth Selden, my own gentle Mother.

She was a thoughtful child, fond of play and of a merry heart, but yet a diligent scholar and an assiduous reader of worthy books. September 24, 1818, she was married to a distant relative, Mr. Joseph Spencer, a graduate of Yale College of the class of 1811, and a grandson of Gen. Joseph Spencer of the Revolution. Mr. Spencer took his wife to Rochester, N. Y., and entered upon the practice of law. He was in a very few years elected to the State Senate, but was taken ill of a fever at Albany near the close of the session, and died there in May, 1823. Mrs. Spencer was now a widow, with one little daughter bearing her own name, Elizabeth,—a name inherited from her aunt Elizabeth Selden, the wife of Dr. Elisha Mather, the mother of Dr. Ezra Selden Mather of Essex, the grandmother of Hon. Lyman Trumbull of Illinois, and ancestress of several other persons here present—from her grandmother, Elizabeth Rogers, the wife of Ezra Selden,—from her great-grandmother, Elizabeth Hyde, wife of Dr. Theophilus Rogers, of Norwich,—from her great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Graham, wife of Thomas Lee, and from her great-great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Adgate, born in 1651, wife of Richard Bushnell. So you see the name of Elizabeth runs in the family! Mrs. Spencer, after a short stay in Hartford and at her old home in Lyme, her father now being dead, went to Geneseo, N. Y., and lived several years with her husband's brother, Major William H. Spencer, of that place. For eighteen months she conducted a school for young ladies, but failing health compelled her to relinquish it. In the



winter of 1830-31—it was St. Valentine's Day—she met at the tea-table of a friend at Fort Niagara, Lieutenant Amos B. Eaton, of the U. S. Army. The acquaintance soon developed into friendship, and friendship into a warmer sentiment, and the two were married, April 21, 1831, at the house of Judge Samuel Selden in Rochester. Mrs. Eaton accompanied her husband to Fort Niagara, New York, to Fort Gratiot, Michigan, and to Fort Howard, Wisconsin; was separated from him during one period of service in the Florida war, remaining with Elizabeth and three younger children in Rochester, but when her husband was again ordered to Florida she followed him with the three little ones, spending a year, from the spring of 1840 to the spring of 1841, in that beautiful but detestable country. In 1842 Captain Eaton was stationed in the city of New York, and four years and a half gathered his whole family together. He was then ordered to Mexico, and for about two years Mrs. Eaton had again the care of her family, living for a while on Staten Island, and for a year boarding in Troy, N. Y. In 1849 Major Eaton was ordered to St. Louis. Mrs. Eaton left three of her children in New England, and took the youngest daughter with her to St. Louis in the autumn. The next year her family was gathered together once more, in New Haven, but in a few months her husband received orders for California. Mrs. Eaton kept house a year or so in New Haven in 1851 and 1852, and it was at this time that her daughter Elizabeth was married to Mr. Elisha Colt, of Hartford. In 1853 she followed her husband to California, her second daughter going with her across the Isthmus of Panama. Her youngest daughter was left at school, and her son entered college soon afterward. From 1855 to 1860 she resided with her husband and younger children in New Haven, and from 1860 to 1864 in New York, her youngest daughter being married to Mr. Charles A. White of New Haven, in 1861. In 1864, her husband, who had by a long and successful service as Commissary of Subsistence well earned the honor, was promoted to be Commissary Gen-



eral of the United States Army, and was of course stationed at Washington. At the same time her only son was appointed to a professorship in Yale College. Mrs. Eaton passed a few more years in Washington, her health gradually failing. She went in 1867 to Rochester to help take care of her dying sister Mrs. Bacon, and never recovered from the anxiety and care of this service. She died, watched by her husband and her two oldest daughters, May 8, 1868. Her remains were buried from her son's house in New Haven, and now rest in the New Haven City Burial Ground, near the bones of her mother; and her husband's (my father's) grave is now by the side of her own. This is but the briefest sketch of my mother's life. From her youth she was unreservedly devoted to religious thought and work, speaking and writing to all persons with whom she had suitable relations, on the one great all-absorbing topic of personal religion, and as constantly doing good in the name of her Lord and Saviour.

Great institutions of charity on the shores of two oceans are in no small degree the result of her efforts. The Home for the Friendless in New York, I think I may say, was to a great extent of her planning, and she and her sister Roxana were not the least active among the good ladies who labored faithfully for its success, and under whose guidance it rose to be a pattern to similar Homes in many other cities. And on the distant Pacific coast, the great charity known as the Ladies' Protection and Relief Society, was in even a more eminent manner the outcome of her devising, of her great love for doing good. Recently, Rev. Dr. Willey, of California, who is identified with the history of that State, alluded to the "House of Protection" as a monument to Mrs. Eaton's memory. I would not convey the idea that she furnished *money* to build these stately houses of charity. She was poor in that kind of wealth, but it was in love, pity, kindness, thought, perseverance and faith that she was one of the very wealthiest of women.

I have taken too much of your time, and yet I wish to say a few words about *another* Elizabeth Selden. When I





was a child my mother's health was poor, and she was often very weary with her cares. But there is ever before me in the memories of those my early days, the sweet face of my loving, tender, patient, older sister. She was almost a second mother to the younger children, never complaining, never impatient, but every ready to *do* all that love could devise to help our mother in all her cares. She is with us here, her mother's own daughter; but I must not say too much, lest looking at her and then at me, you may think I have drawn upon my imagination when I claimed to be so much her junior that she could have cared for me in the years of my childhood.

I have here my own little daughter, Elizabeth Selden, and will close by expressing the hope, that so long as there are any Seldens left,—and may they live forever—there may be among them, in name and in deed, an ELIZABETH.



65  
CALVIN SELDEN

OF LYME,

AND HIS CHILDREN.



## APPENDIX.

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### Family Record of the descendants of Calvin Selden.

CALVIN SELDEN, born at Lyme, Conn. 14 March, 1763, married Phebe Ely, daughter of Elijah and Kate (Lee) Ely, 20 Sept. 1790. He died at Lyme, 28 Oct. 1820. She died at New Haven, 15 Oct. 1853.

*Their children, all born at Lyme :*

1. Roxana, b. 19 May, 1791.
2. Ezra, b. 17, Aug. 1793, d. 16 Aug. 1814.
3. Elizabeth, b. 18 April, 1796.
4. Samuel Lee, b. 12 Oct. 1800.
5. Almira, b. 20 Sept. 1803.
6. Henry Rogers, b. 14 Oct. 1805.

1. ROXANA SELDEN married 1st, 4 Jan. 1812, Morrison Jack, son of Alexander and Margaret Jack of Balmarino, Fifeshire, Scotland. He died in New Brunswick not many years later.

*Their children :*

7. Elizabeth Selden, b. 16 Feb. 1814, at St. Bartholomew's, W. I.
8. Margaretta Phebe, b. 25 Oct. 1815, at St. Vincent's, W. I.

Roxana (Selden) Jack married 2d, Judge William Clark Fraser, of Wisconsin, 20 Aug. 1837. He died 18 Oct. 1838, at Milwaukee, and she died at Phelps, Ontario Co., N. Y., 21 Oct. 1876.

3. ELIZABETH SELDEN married 1st, 24 Sept. 1818, Joseph Spencer, son of Isaac and Lucretia (Colt) Spencer, of Hartford. He died at Albany, N. Y., 2 May, 1823, leaving one daughter.

9. Elizabeth Selden, b. 5 Dec. 1819, at Rochester, N. Y.

Elizabeth (Selden) Spencer married 2d, 21 April, 1831, at Rochester, N. Y., Lieut. Amos B. Eaton, U. S. A., son of Amos and Sally (Cady) Eaton, originally of Columbia Co., N. Y.

*Their children were :*

10. Ellen Dwight, b. 19 March, 1832, at Fort Niagara.
11. Daniel Cady, b. 12 Sept. 1834, at Fort Gratiot, Michigan.
12. Frances Spencer, b. 18 July, 1836, at Fort Gratiot.



Mrs. Eaton died at Washington, D. C., 8 May, 1863. General Eaton afterwards (7 Sept. 1870) married Mrs. Mary Smith, daughter of Isaac and Clarinda Jerome, of Onondaga Co., N. Y., and widow of Col. E. Kirby Smith, U. S. A. Gen. Eaton died 21 Feb. 1877, at New Haven, Conn.

4. SAMUEL LEE SELDEN married, 27 July, 1831, Susan Matilda Ward, daughter of Dr. Levi and Mehitable (Hand) Ward, of Genesee Co., N. Y. Mrs. Selden died 11 April, 1862, and her husband died at Rochester, N. Y., 20 Sept. 1876.

*Their children, born at Rochester :*

13. Henry Lee, b. 18, March, 1846, drowned at Irondequoit Bay, Lake Ontario, 25 June, 1858.

14. Samuel Ward, b. 4 Sept. 1847, died 4 Nov. 1848.

5. ALMIRA SELDEN married, 28 May, 1826, Nathaniel Almorán Bacon, son of Nathaniel and Rebecca (Strong) Bacon, of Woodbury, Conn. Mr. N. A. Bacon died at New Haven, 1 Sept. 1870, and his wife died at Rochester, 29 Sept., 1867.

*Their children :*

15. Ellen, b. at New Haven, 8 Sept. 1827, died at New Haven, 18 March, 1857.

16. Mary, b. at Westfield, Mass., 16 March, 1831, died at New Haven, 16 July, 1835.

17. Rebecca, b. at New Haven, 21 Aug. 1833, died at New Haven, 18 May, 1864.

18. Susan, b. at New Haven, 11 Aug. 1835.

19. Alice, b. New Haven, 5 Sept. 1838, died at New Haven, 13 Sept. 1839.

6. HENRY ROGERS SELDEN married, 25 Sept. 1834, Laura Anne Baldwin, daughter of Dr. Abel, and Laura (Smith) Baldwin, of Clarkson, N. Y.

*Their children :*

20. Julia Clark, b. at Clarkson (as were all but the last of the following), 24 Sept. 1835.

21. Louisa, b. 27 Oct. 1837.

22. Mary Gardiner, b. 22 Aug. 1839.

23. Augusta, b. 26 Sept. 1841, d. 1 Jan. 1843.

24. Henry Baldwin, b. 24 June, 1844, d. 25 Aug. 1845.

25. George Baldwin, b. 14 Sept. 1846.

26. Laura Augusta, b. 7 Oct. 1848, d. 25 Aug. 1850.

27. Arthur Rogers, b. 5 Oct. 1850.

28. Percy Lee, b. 1 March, 1853, d. 2 Oct. 1857.

29. Jessie F., b. 2 July, 1855, d. 29 Jan. 1858.

30. Samuel Lee, b. 21 April, 1859.

31. Laura Henrietta, b. at Rochester, 12 Oct. 1864.

Judge Selden resides at Grove Place, Rochester.





7. ELIZABETH SELDEN JACK married, 6 March, 1838, Thomas M. Partridge, son of Elisha and Vine (Carpenter) Partridge, of Vermont. She was always called Eliza in the family: she died at Brockport, N. Y., 9 Jan. 1839, leaving one son,

32. Samuel Selden, born 9 Jan. 1839.

8. MARGARETTA PHEBE JACK married, 19 Nov. 1835, Lieut. Abner Riviere Hetzel, U. S. A., who died with the rank of Captain at Louisville, Ky., 20 July, 1847. He was the son of John and Mary (Poole) Hetzel, of Lancaster Co., Penn.

*Their children:*

33. Samuel Selden, b. 1 Jan. 1837, at New Haven, Conn., now living in Nevada, and married.

34. Mary, b. 25 Sept. 1839, d. 3 Sept. 1840.

35. Susan, b. 5 April, 1841.

36. Margaret Riviere, b. 11 Jan. 1843, is married to a Mr. Pendleton, and lives in Ohio.

Mrs. Hetzel and her daughter Susan reside in Clifton, <sup>Fairfax</sup> ~~King George~~ Co., Virginia.

9. ELIZABETH SELDEN SPENCER married, 19 Nov. 1851, at New Haven, Elisha Colt, son of Elisha and Rebecca (Butler) Colt, of Hartford. Mr. Colt died at Hartford, 4 Feb. 1874.

*Their children:*

37. Elizabeth Eaton, b. at Hartford, 10 Nov. 1852, d. 26 June, 1854.

38. Joseph Spencer, b. at Hartford, 19 Feb. 1854.

39. Elisha William, b. at Hartford, 26 Dec. 1859.

Mrs. Colt and her sons are living in Hartford, the sons engaged in banks.

11. DANIEL CADY EATON married, 13 Feb. 1866, Caroline Ketcham, daughter of Tredwell and Mary (Van Winkle) Ketcham, of New York City. Their home is in New Haven, Conn.

*Their children, born at New Haven:*

40. Elizabeth Selden, b. 25 Aug. 1867.

41. Henry Ketcham, b. 12 Aug. 1870.

42. George Francis, b. 30 May, 1872.

12. FRANCES SPENCER EATON married, 15 Oct. 1861, to Charles Atwood White, son of Henry and Martha (Sherman) White, of New Haven. They are now living in New Haven.

*Their children:*

43. Fanny Eaton, b. at Astoria, Long Island, 16 Oct. 1862.

44. Eleanor Selden, b. at Astoria, 11 Oct. 1864, died 9 March, 1865.

45. Mabel Wellington, b. at Astoria, 13 June, 1866.

46. Elizabeth Selden, b. at Astoria, 23 July, 1868.

47. Susan Sherman, b. at New Haven, 13 Jan. 1870.

48. Henry White, b. at New Haven, 18 July, 1873.



18. SUSAN BACON married, 7 Oct. 1857, Rev. Leonard Woolsey Bacon, son of Rev. Dr. Leonard and Lucy (Johnson) Bacon, of New Haven. They are now residing in New Haven.

*Their children :*

- 49. Nathaniel Terry, born at Litchfield, Conn., 16 Aug. 1858.
  - 50. Benjamin Wisner, b. at Litchfield, 15 Jan. 1860.
  - 51. Selden, b. at New Haven, 28 Sept. 1861.
  - 52. Theodore Davenport, b. at Stamford, Conn., 31 Aug. 1863.
  - 53. Leonard Woolsey, b. at Stamford, 24 Feb. 1865.
  - 54. Margaret Wardell, b. at Brooklyn, E. D., N. Y., 10 April, 1866.
  - 55. Almira Selden, b. at Brooklyn, E. D., 16 May, 1869.
  - 56. Susan Johnson, b. at Colebrook, Conn., 18 Aug. 1871, died 15 Aug. 1874, in Geneva, Switzerland.
  - 57. Mabel Ginevra, b. at Geneva, Switzerland, 9 June, 1874.
  - 58. Katharine Ellen, b. at Geneva, 17 April, 1876.
20. JULIA CLARK SELDEN married, 18 Feb. 1864, Theodore Bacon, son of Rev. Dr. Leonard and Lucy (Johnson) Bacon, of New Haven. They reside in Rochester, where Mr. Bacon practices law, and where were born

*Their children:*

- 59. Alice, b. 23 Dec. 1866.
  - 60. Jessie, b. 4 Sept. 1868.
  - 61. Henry Selden, b. 25 March, 1872.
  - 62. Leonard Beaumont, b. 25 July, 1875.
21. LOUISA SELDEN married, 5 Oct. 1870, Lieut.-Col. Elwell S. Otis, U. S. A., of Rochester. She died at St. Paul, Minnesota, 24 April, 1875.

*Their children:*

- 63. Laura Lee, b. 19 Nov. 1872.
  - 64. Mary, b. 13 June, 1874.
22. MARY G. SELDEN married, 13 Nov. 1866, Francis Allan Macomber, of Rochester. They reside in Rochester, where Mr. Macomber practises law.

*Their children:*

- 65. Francis Selden, b. 29 Sept. 1867.
  - 66. Louise Selden, b. 12 Feb. 1869, d. 17 Oct. 1875.
  - 67. Henry Selden, b. 5 Aug. 1871.
  - 68. A daughter, b. 3 May, 1877.
25. GEORGE BALDWIN SELDEN married, 14 Dec. 1871, Clara Woodruff, daughter of Dr. Jacob Drake and Harriet Tomlinson (Sayre) Woodruff, of Brooklyn, N. Y. He is a lawyer, living in Rochester.

*Child:*

- 69. Louise Harriet, b. 12 June, 1877.



32. SAMUEL SELDEN PARTRIDGE married, 19 Oct. 1864, Frances Augusta Bellamy, of Rochester, N. Y. He resides in Phelps, Ontario Co., N. Y., and is a lawyer.

*Their children:*

70. Thomas Murdock, b. at Rochester, 30 Dec. 1865.  
71. Lee Selden [a daughter], b. at Rochester, 1 Feb. 1870.  
72. Eliza Maria, b. at Phelps, 14 Oct. 1871.  
73. Caroline, b. at Phelps, 26 May, 1873.  
74. Harry Frederick, b. at Phelps, 11 March, 1875.  
75. Edward Bellamy, b. at Phelps, 10 July, 1877.















